

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A master control system for a rolling mill, comprising at least one rolling stand, driven by a drive system, an automation device for the open-loop and/or closed-loop control of the rolling stand, and a commissioning computer, wherein the commissioning computer is designed for the commissioning of the drive system and of the automation device, and further comprising at least one bus system for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to at least one component comprising the drive system and the automation device, and further wherein the bus system is designed for the transmission of information necessary for the operation of the rolling mill between the drive system and the automation device, said control system further comprising an operator-control computer for monitoring and/or influencing the rolling mill, and wherein the commissioning computer is designed for the commissioning of the operator-control computer and further wherein the bus system is designed for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to the operator-control computer, wherein the master control system further comprises a decentralized peripheral connected to the automation device via the bus system between the drive system and the automation device.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The master control system according to claim 11, wherein the bus system is designed for the transmission of information necessary for the operation of the rolling mill between the operator-control computer and at least one of the components comprising the drive system and the automation device.

15. (Currently Amended) The master control system according to claim 11, further comprising at least one first bus system for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to the automation device, so that the commissioning computer and the automation device are connected by a data link, and at least one second bus system for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the automation device to the drive system, so that the automation device and the drive system are connected by a data link.

16. (Previously Presented) The master control system according to claim 15, wherein a second bus system is designed for the transmission of information necessary for the operation of the rolling mill, between the automation device and the drive system.

17. (Previously Presented) The master control system according to claim 15 wherein the operator-control computer for monitoring and/or influencing the rolling mill, is connected to the first bus system by a data link, and the first bus system is designed for the transmission of information necessary for the operation of the rolling mill between the operator-control computer and the automation device.

18. (Previously Presented) The master control system according to claim 11, further comprising at least two automation devices of different types and wherein the commissioning computer is designed for the commissioning of both automation devices.

19. (Previously Presented) The master control system according to claim 11, wherein the rolling mill is a mill train.

20. (Currently Amended) A rolling mill comprising at least one rolling stand driven by a drive system, and a master control system with an automation device for the open-loop and/or closed-loop control of the rolling stand, and a commissioning computer, wherein the commissioning computer is designed for the commissioning of the drive system and of the automation device, further comprising at least one bus system for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to at least one component comprising the drive system and the automation device, and wherein the bus system is designed for the transmission of information necessary for the operation of the rolling mill, between the drive system and the automation device, said control system further comprising an operator-control computer for monitoring and/or influencing the rolling mill, and wherein the commissioning computer is designed for the commissioning of the operator-control computer and further wherein the bus system is designed for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to the operator-control computer, wherein the rolling mill further comprises a decentralized peripheral connected to the automation device via the bus system between the drive system and the automation device.

21. (Previously Presented) A rolling mill according to claim 20, wherein said mill is a mill train.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a rolling mill, comprising utilizing a master control system comprising a rolling mill, having at least one rolling stand driven by a drive system, an automation device for the open-loop and/or closed-loop control of the rolling stand, and a commissioning computer, wherein the commissioning of the drive system and of the automation device takes place by means of the same commissioning computer, and further comprising a bus system for the transmission (i) of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to at least one of the components comprising the drive system and the automation device, and (ii) of information necessary for the operation of the rolling mill, between the drive system and the automation device, and wherein the bus system is designed for the transmission of information necessary for the operation of the rolling mill, between the drive system and the automation device, said control system further comprising an operator-control computer for monitoring and/or influencing the rolling mill, and wherein the commissioning computer is designed for the commissioning of the operator-control computer and further wherein the bus system is designed for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to the operator-control computer, wherein the method further comprises connecting a decentralized peripheral to the automation device via the bus system for the transmission of information between the drive system and the automation device.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 22, wherein the rolling mill is a mill train.

24. (New) The master control system according to claim 11, wherein the operator-control computer comprises a central operator-control computer and a decentralized operator-control computer, and wherein the central and decentralized operator-control computers are connected to a standard ethernet bus, wherein the standard ethernet bus is connected via a computer to the at least one bus system for the transmission of operating parameters and/or program code from the commissioning computer to the at least one component comprising the drive system and the automation device.